



O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL
INSTITUTION OF EMINENCE DEEMED TO BE
UNIVERSITY
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I.D.E.A.S.
OFFICE of
INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Moulding Methods

I.D.E.A.S Initiative

Newsletter Fall 2025
(Aug-Dec)

Moulding Methods, an initiative at the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies (IDEAS) at O.P Jindal Global University, is a platform for critical reflection and dialogue on research methodologies and how they shape social and political enquiries in social sciences. It aims to disentangle methods from the text and foreground their centrality and their bearing on knowledge production. Our attempt is to examine the process of fieldwork, a combination of bodily, emotional, and sensory labour of the researcher, and how that constitutes a foundation for the production of written texts.

Over this year, we have brought together a diverse cohort of scholars, in the form of Ethnographic Method Series, Online Webinar Series and Research Methodologies workshop, to share their methodological journeys and reflect on the anxieties of their fieldwork.

The Ethnographic Series is evolving as a think tank for methodological innovation, empowering researchers to question, adapt, and mold methods that meet the complexities of contemporary research challenges. Through its inclusive and interactive format, we envision building a community where scholars not only exchange knowledge but also co-create pathways for methodological advancements. We organized dialogues on Methodologies of Care, on Affect and Sensory Methodologies, and on Memory and Ethnography, which we are working to take forward in the coming year, and welcome ideas and collaborations.

The Online Webinar Series offers us the platform for more innovative and interdisciplinary methodological conversations. It seeks to transform how methods are used in academic and practical research, fostering a global community of scholars, and practitioners to develop ground breaking methodologies for addressing social issues and improving knowledge production processes.

Researching the Contemporary: A Methods-Lab for Early Career Scholars

13th and 14th October 2025



In the Autumn 2025 semester, taking forward our dialogue with both established and early-career scholars to explore the messy 'behind the scenes' of their methodological journeys before the making and emergence of their research work, we organized a two-day research methods workshop, "Researching the Contemporary: A Methods-Lab for Early Career Scholars" on 13th and 14th October 2025, in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair in Vulnerability Studies, University of Hyderabad. It was hosted at Jindal Global University's Sonipat campus.

The Workshop in the form of a methods' lab, brought together young social scientists and humanities scholars, PhD scholars & faculty to the present their work-in-progress, and encounters of the field, and sought to enable focused feedback and peer exchange.

Among hundreds of submissions initially, the Workshop hosted 26 early career scholar participants from across India and abroad for the exchange. Other than the early career researcher participants, there was participation of 22 discussants, moderators, keynote speakers, and special panelists over the two days.

The Workshop opened with a Keynote address by Professor Farhana Ibrahim from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi on 'Positionality, Access & Consent: Negotiating Ethnography in a Time of Global Transformations'. (see [here](#))

A Special Panel on 'Research as Embodied Practice: Navigating the Process of Fieldwork' saw deliberations amongst eminent historian Prabhu Mohapatra, former professor Delhi University, sociologist Rajni Palriwala, former professor Delhi School of Economics, and political scientist Prof Shivani Kapoor from the Centre for Study of Developing Societies (CSDS). (find [here](#))

Participants presented their work in 7 thematically organized Panels with 2 Faculty Resource Persons in each Panel providing expert feedback. The Panels were on Gender, Care, Labour, Migration, Intersecting Precarities, Social Exclusion, and Climate and Sustainable Development Goals.

The quality presentations, thorough feedback, and discussions were acknowledged as very rigorous and helpful by participants, in a climate of lack of such opportunities. A Feedback Session towards the closing unanimously agreed on the quality of the Workshop, and the need to have it as an annual iterative exercise.





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